MARINOL

Learning Objective

- Provide educational awareness about the prescription drug Marinol

What is Marinol?

- Marinol is often called “the medical marijuana”
- Marinol is a member of the family of drugs known as cannabinoids
- Its chemical composition is similar to that of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active ingredient in marijuana

Marinol – Legal Uses

- Cancer/Chemotherapy - Treats symptoms of nausea and vomiting after other medications are proven ineffective
- HIV/AIDS – Sometimes prescribed as an appetite stimulant
- THC stimulates the appetite and reduces nausea/vomiting by binding to special receptors found in the central nervous system

Marinol

- Marinol is produced as capsules or as a powder
- Marinol capsules are red, white, and orange in color and are circular shaped
- Capsules are typically 2.5mg, 5mg, or 10mg and bear the imprint of a “UM” or “RL”
- The powder form is white in color and is similar, in appearance, to cocaine and methampheta

Side Effects

The effects of Marinol are similar to those of marijuana:

- Abdominal pain
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Nausea/ Vomiting
- Euphoric *“marijuana like high”*
- Elevated or relaxed mood
- Trouble concentrating
- Decreased coordination
- Confusion
- Head ache
- Unusual tiredness or weakness

Severe Side Effects

- Abnormal thinking
- Behavioral changes
- Fast or irregular heart beat
- Hallucinations
- Memory problems
- Severe allergic reactions
- Seizures
- Vision changes
- Severe dizziness
- Severe mood changes (feelings of anxiety, depression, panic, paranoia)

Army Policy

- The use of Marinol is prohibited without a valid prescription.
- All drug specimen are screened and tested for Marinol and THC.
- The illegal use of Marinol or any drug goes against Army Values and Warrior Pride

Additional information on Marinol can be found by contacting the Army Substance Abuse Program or by visiting www.acsap.army.mil

WARRIOR

Personal Courage: Possess the Personal Courage not to use drugs or abuse alcohol and to notify the Chain of Command of Soldiers that do.

Respect: Show your Respect to the Army, your unit, fellow Soldiers, and yourself by staying drug free and drinking responsibly.

Integrity: Stay true to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos by supporting the Army's drug and alcohol policies.

Duty: Do your duty as a Soldier and stay mentally and physically tough by not using drugs or abusing alcohol.

Excellence: Exhibit honorable behavior on and off duty - don't be a substance abuser!